

## State of New Hampshire DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

6 Hazen Drive, P.O. Box 95, Concord, NH 03302-0095 (603) 271-3503 FAX (603) 271-5171



July 18, 2003

## **LETTER OF DEFICIENCY #WSEB 03-085**CERTIFIED MAIL 7099 3400 0003 0690 2299

Jack McCormack
Plymouth Village Water & Sewer District
227 Old North Main Street
Plymouth, NH 03264

Subject:

Plymouth - Public Water System: Plymouth Village Water & Sewer District

(EPA# 1941010)

Dear Mr. McCormack

The records of the Department of Environmental Services (DES) show that Plymouth Village Water & Sewer District water system (PVW&S) is classified as a public water system (PWS), as defined by RSA 485:1-a. A PWS is defined as any water system serving 15 or more services, or 25 or more people for 60 or more days per year. As such, the water system owner is required to submit samples to the State laboratory or a State-certified laboratory for coliform bacteria analysis in compliance with NH Administrative Rule Env-Ws 325.

DES records show that the PVW&S has incurred five bacteria Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) violations in the past three years. The MCL violations were incurred in September 2000, October 2000, September 2001, September 2002, and now in July 2003. Following the October 2000 violation, DES issued Letter of Deficiency #WSEB 00-103 (LOD) to the PVW&S, which requested the system to retain a consultant to address the bacteria contamination. The PVW&S complied with the LOD by having staff from Northeast Rural Water Association (NeRWA) examine the system and prepare a report listing recommendations to correct the existing bacteria contamination and to prevent future contamination. Among NeRWA's many recommendations were the development of a quarterly flushing program and more monitoring. PVW&S in a letter dated November 13, 2000, stated that the water system opted to flush monthly and conduct coliform bacteria tests in-house to monitoring for bacteria contamination.

In consideration of the above, DES believes the MCL violations can be corrected and future violations prevented by taking the following actions:

By August 1, 2003, retain the services of a qualified water system consultant to address the system's water quality problems relative to the recent bacteriological occurrences; and

2. **By August 15, 2003**, submit to DES for review a copy of the consultant's report which shall include recommendations to correct the bacteria contamination; and

www.des.state.nh.us TDD Access: Relay NH 1-800-735-2964

By August 29, 2003, submit to DES for review and approval an implementation schedule which identifies specific dates by which steps to correct the bacteria contamination will be accomplished.

In the event compliance is not achieved within this period, DES may take further enforcement action, including issuing an order requiring the deficiencies be corrected, initiating an administrative fine proceeding and/or referring the matter to the NH Department of Justice for imposition of appropriate penalties.

The copy of the requested written report and implementation schedule should be addressed as follows:

Alan Leach
Department of Environmental Services
Water Supply Engineering Bureau
6 Hazen Drive, P.O. Box 95
Concord, NH 03302-0095

Please contact Alan Leach by phone at (603) 271-2854, or by e-mail at aleach@des.state.nh.us if you have any questions regarding this letter.

Sincerely

Anthony P. Giunta, P.G., Administrator Water Supply Engineering Bureau

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cc: Gretchen Rule, DES Legal Unit

Odyssias Athanasiou, Town of Plymouth Health Officer Gerald Young, Primary Operator/Sampling Agent

EPA Region I